



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CARDIN CALLS ON EPA TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT DANGEROUS CHROMIUM FOUND IN LOCAL WATER

Washington, DC – **U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)**, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Water and Wildlife Subcommittee, sent the following letter to Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in response to reports of the carcinogen hexavalent chromium (or chromium-6) in local drinking water. A copy also is attached.

December 21, 2010

Ms. Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Every person in our Nation should be able to take readily available, safe drinking water for granted. Reports this week that an environmental group testing drinking water in 35 cities found evidence of hexavalent chromium (or chromium-6), a known carcinogen, in 31 cities -- including Bethesda, Maryland and Washington, D.C. -- have made many Americans question the safety of their drinking water, the adequacy of measures meant to protect it, and what steps they should take to care for their health and that of their families.

I would like EPA to provide me with any information that might help answer these questions. Specifically, I would like to know whether EPA has in place any monitoring requirements for local water treatment utilities or legal limits for hexavalent chromium in tap water. If not, why not and what work is EPA doing to establish or update those requirements and limits and under what timeline? What advice does EPA have for residents of communities where hexavalent chromium was discovered in the tap water tested by the Environmental Working Group?

As Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, I look forward to working with you in the coming months to address the issue of hexavalent chromium and to ensure that the Federal government is doing everything possible to provide Americans with safe water to drink.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

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